

Gregory School did not have any out of compliance issues during their review in November of 2006. Below are the promising practices found in the district.

Gregory School District
Promising Practices

Child Find

The school district conducts Birth to 5 screening activities through a collaborative approach. These screenings are conducted in the fall of each year utilizing individuals from Mid-Central Educational Cooperative, HeadStart, the county health nurse, the school district and the school's preschool. The screenings conducted provide information not only for child find but also to assist HeadStart in meeting their requirements for students which are placed in their program. The district pays the music boosters to conduct a census of young children in the community, therefore the district screens large numbers of children in the Birth-5 age range.

Big Pal/Little Pal, Cross Curricular Studies, Book Buddies, Suicide Prevention, We the People Program

All senior students are encouraged to participate in the Big Pal/Little pal program. Students from the elementary are selected by their teachers to work with a senior. The students who are chosen may have educational, social or emotional needs which the teachers feel could be heightened by the interaction with a positive influence from a senior.

The district has several projects where teachers work together across the curriculum. The senior class is involved in an American Legion contest which involves writing an essay and then presenting it. The senior English teacher assists the students with this and the completed project is submitted to the Government and the English class for a grade. The seventh grade science teacher and the computer teacher work together with a leaf project. The students learn about different types of trees and leaves and then create a brochure in computers to illustrate their knowledge. The Family and Consumer Sciences Class creates nutrition lessons which are presented to the elementary classrooms. During ninth grade English, the students read The Miracle Worker and then research and make a presentation concerning a topic covered in the story. This presentation is worked on in computer class.

Book Buddies is a program involving high school students and community members. Elementary students are invited to a book buddy night, and the older individuals read with them. The elementary principal goes into every elementary classroom and reads to the children also. These activities are completed to promote reading at all levels.

The Gregory School District initiated The SOS Suicide Prevention Program. This program is used with middle school and high school students. A

community wide task force has also been established to work with the school district and other community agencies to help keep the community safe. In addition to the suicide prevention program, the school psychologist implemented a social skills class at the 5th grade level. This is an innovative and futuristic approach which benefits students and is an effective and efficient use of the school psychologist time in the district.

The Gregory School District's high school government teacher attended a training in Washington DC in May of 2006 to learn about this program and to incorporate it into his curriculum. We The People is a national program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education. The curriculum is designed to make students aware of their civic responsibilities and rights, gain an understanding of our constitutional democracy, and understand how the Constitution is applied to contemporary issues. Really, it is like a Constitutional Cult. The culminating activity is a mock congressional hearing for state schools who participate in the program.

The Center provides student texts at no cost to the participating school district. The text is divided into 40 lessons, six units. The class is then divided into six groups, one group per unit. Each unit has three assigned questions. We spend half of the class going over lessons, on average two lessons per day. The remaining time is spent researching the questions. For each question, the group will be expected to give a four minute testimony with an additional six minute question/answer period with a panel of judges.

Each group has been assigned a 'mentor'. The mentors are all lawyers who have volunteered their time to help the kids construct their testimony to the assigned questions. Each group has a group leader who is responsible for corresponding with their mentor. Correspondence is conducted via email and limited to once a week.